THE FIRST SEASIDE MILLS

by

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Sawmill

The First Seaside Mills

Introduction

By going through a stack of my books and papers on local history, I thought I ought to be able to come up quickly with the answer to the question asked in the latest newsletter of the Seaside Museum: where was the first mill in Seaside and when it was built. I thought it would be easy to find out the names of those who built it, too. I was wrong. Most of my sources agreed on time and place, but seldom did two sources to agree on the people involved, unless one was quoting another. I did not make an exhaustive search of the records and there may be good sources that I have not consulted. If anyone is aware of these, please let me know.

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THE FIRST SEASIDE MILLS

Part 1: Reminiscences

Bethenia Owens-Adair quoted her mother, Sarah Damron Owens in the book, *Dr. Owens-Adair: Some of her Life Experiences*, page 152,

"During the summer of 1845, my husband was from home most of the time. Messrs. Owens, Trask, Perry, Marlin and Tibbets were building a grist mill on the Ohanna creek, just below where the Astoria and Columbia River Railroad now crosses that stream, near its mouth. That was the first grist mill built in Clatsop county. It was built in the fall of 1845."

Further on in the book, page 221, is the statement about the building of the A.C. Wirt house in 1850, that:

"The lumber cost $75 a thousand, in the rough, at the mill. This mill stood on the east bank of the O'Hanna river, just north of where the A. & C. railroad crosses it, near Seaside. The mill was built by John Moreland."

In an address by Silas B. Smith, son of Solomon H. Smith and his wife, Celiast, given at the meeting of the Oregon Historical Society, and reported in the *Morning Oregonian* on December 18, 1899:

"In 1846-47 a small sawmill was built at the southern end of Clatsop plains, on the Ohanna creek. Its cutting capacity was 1000 feet a day. The water-wheel was some sort of spiral wheel. It made spruce lumber principally. Only a few thousand feet of its manufacture was ever exported. The distance to haul to the Columbia river was too great to make it profitable. Its principal trade was local. I believe it never proved to be a paying investment."

Inez Stafford Hanson wrote in *Life on "Clatsop"*, page 16:

"People were settling all along this road [from Lexington to the plains] and in 1846 a man by the name of Marlan built a little mill at what the farmers called the "millrace." That was the spot just north of present day Seaside, where a small stream drains the marshy land to the east into the "Ohanna." At least that was the earliest name for the stream that has since been changed to Neawanna. Ohanna was the nearest to the Indian name for it that the settlers could produce. Marlan's mill first ground flour only, and Sarah Gearhart Byrd, later remembered going there with her father from their home on the Gearhart farm to the north. They followed a path on the ridge on which the railroad track now runs, until they were directly east of the mill. There, the path turned due west across marshy ground which the farmers called a "swale." Her father, Phillip Gearhart, carried small quantities of grain down to the mill and the little girl loved the walk, loved to watch the water wheel turning while the grain was being ground and loved the thought of the good things to be made from it when they got back home. There was not enough grain to be ground to make the venture very profitable for Mr. Marlan, however, so the mill was soon converted into one for cutting lumber. An upright saw was installed and spruce was cut, up to about a thousand feet a day. It was too far to haul it to the Columbia so the output had to be used locally, only a few thousand feet being shipped away." [Sarah Gearhart was born in Iowa in 1843.]

On page 18:

"In 1850 the Presbyterian Church was built....Morrison and a Mr. McEwan even made the first pulpit. The two men were on the beach one day when they found a redwood log which was in good condition. By that time the Morrisons had bought the Marlan mill so the two took the log there and cut it into suitable pieces."

On page 28:

"In the latter part of the 60s a little sawmill was built at the foot of Tillamook Head. Flowing off the Head is a small stream which the early residents called Canyon Creek and which now flows into the Muddy....A man, by the name of Packard, had built the mill on the Muddy to cut the large spruce and hemlock nearby. Not finding enough water in that stream, he dug a ditch from it into canyon creek, permanently changing the course of the latter....With the additional water-flow, he could operate the mill, logs were hauled in by oxen, but, again, there was little demand for the lumber. The venture soon ended."

On page 37, she wrote:

"By the late 1870s, the little mill at the millrace beside the Wahanna had also been abandoned."

Fred Lockley in *Columbia River Valley from the Dalles to the Sea*, page 269 quotes Sarah Gearhart Byrd,

"Father raised wheat and sold it to the grist mill on the old mill race about a mile from Seaside on the Astoria-Seaside Road....After the death of my first husband, I married Frank M. Byrd, who had a sawmill at Thompson's Falls, about a half mile from our farm here."

On pg. 272, he quotes William Irwin Morrison,

"In 1846 he [R.W. Morrison] took up this claim of 640 acres. He built a sawmill here on the plains."

From the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 7, page 167 from the Overton and Winters book on Oregon written in 1843 and printed in 1846, originally:

"Twenty five miles above Astoria and near the Columbia, there is an excellent saw mill in operation and on Clatsop plains there is a small patent mill being set up for the accommodation of the settlers at the mouth of the river."

From paper presented by Dr. Nellie Byrd at Gearhart Centennial, Gearhart Hotel, Gearhart, Oregon, October 2, 1948:

"Grandfather deeded part of the J. J. Louk D.L.C. to my mother on November 28, 1879, where we lived for many years. Just South of our house on this property was one of the first grist mills in Oregon, built on the mill race by Thomas W. Reddick. This was where the Gearharts had their wheat ground. Later a Mr. Packard had one of the first saw mills on the same site. The story is told that J.J. Louk traded a cow for the squatter's right, that later he proved up on as a D.L.C."

From "The Gearhart Family History," by Marjorie Gearhart Boehm and Jean Gearhart Sandoz, in *Cumtux* Vol. 3, No. 1, pg. 26:

"Grandfather [Philip Gearhart] deeded part of the J.J. Louk Donation Land Claim to Aunt Sarah [Gearhart Byrd] on November 28, 1879, where they lived for many years. Just south of their house on this property was one of the first grist mills in Oregon, built on the mill race by Thomas W. Reddick. This is where the Gearharts had their wheat ground. Later a Mr. Packard had one of the first saw mills on the same site."

An article in the *Morning Oregonian* on August 27, 1894 reported:

"When the gold discoveries made an extraordinary demand for lumber, Captain Morrison joined General John Adair in the ownership of a sawmill, and subsequently built a small grist mill, but this was not a congenial business."

From the *Astoria Sesquicentennial, 1811-1961*, page 13, in a piece written by A.E. Grimstad:

"Another early mill was that built by the Morrisons in 1846-47 on Ohanna Creek..."

An article titled, "Historical Places in Clatsop County," by Miss Florence I. Goddard was printed in one of the Astoria newspapers on June 8, 1901:

"To the Clatsop plains we are also indebted for a small sawmill which was built on the O'hanna creek in 1846 47. Only a few thousand feet of its manufacture was ever exported, as the expense of hauling it to the Columbia was two [sic] great to make it profitable.

"Another enterprise of 1846-47 was the construction of a flour mill, which was situated in the southern part of Clatsop plains. The driving wheel was constructed to run under tide-water. The nearest flour mills were five miles above Fort Vancouver, and so great joy was felt when the first flour was made at the Clatsop mill as the people were eating boiled wheat as a substitute for bread."

Emma Gene Miller's book, *Clatsop County, Oregon: Its History and Legends* repeated some of the above sources on page 215.

"In 1846-47 a small sawmill was built by the Robert Morrisons at the southern end of Clatsop Plains, on the Ohanna (Wahanna) Creek, just north of where the Astoria Coast Railroad crossed the creek near Seaside. Its cutting capacity was 1000 board feet of lumber a day. That sawmill made spruce lumber principally, and only a few 1000 feet of its manufacture were ever exported. The distance was too great to haul it to the Columbia River to make it profitable, and the principal trade was local. The sawmill never proved to be a paying investment. Later it was converted into a grist mill."

"In about 1852 a Mr. Packard had a sawmill built on the site of present Gearhart."

"A sawmill, erected in 1852 by John Moreland, was located near Ohanna Creek,--so situated as to utilize the stream as a millrace. Lumber sold at that time for about $16 per 1000 board feet."

Then on page 206, she wrote:

"Grist mills sprang up shortly after the pioneers arrived--for the settlers needed a place to grind their grain into flour. During the summer of 1845, Messrs. Thomas Owens, Eldridge Trask, W.T. Perry and Calvin Tibbets built a grist mill at Ohanna Creek near its mouth, the first grist mill in Clatsop County."

"In 1851 Thomas W. Reddick built a grist mill at the site of now Gearhart, and the P. Gearharts had their wheat ground there."

From History of Pacific Northwest-Oregon and Washington, 1889, pg. 482:

"Mr. Morrison was a pioneer in raising grain on the plains, and also erected a grist and saw mill. He served during the Cayuse war, and was the officer in charge of the fort at The Dalles.

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Contradictory Claims

To summarize Part 1, Reminiscences:

The grist mill and saw mill were started on the south end of Clatsop plains near where the railroad crossed the Ohanna River.

Some sources say that the grist mill was first; others that the saw mill was first. More confusion results in trying to untangle just who was responsible for building the mills. The following summarizes the statements above:

Those involved in building the mills were:

Thomas Owens, Calvin Tibbets, William T. Perry, Eldridge Trask, and Marlin built the grist mill.
Thomas Owens, Calvin Tibbets, William T. Perry, and Eldridge Trask built the grist mill.
John Moreland built the sawmill.
Marlan built the grist mill.
Thomas Reddick built the first grist mill.
Mr. Packard built the first sawmill.
Mr. Packard built a sawmill on the Muddy
Capt. Morrison and General John Adair built a sawmill then a grist mill.
The Morrisons built the (1st) sawmill-1846-47.
R.W. Morrison built a sawmill then a grist mill.
R.W. Morrison bought the Marlan mill.

A patent mill was being built in 1843.
The grist mill was built in 1845, 1846.
The saw mill was built in 1846/47, 1852.

Part 2: Public Records

It seems reasonable that it would be worthwhile to look at some other kinds of information such as land records, census and tax lists to help find the truth. You will see, however, that this only adds to the confusion. Now there are more names and dates to add to the above.

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In the special statistics schedule of the 1850 federal census for Clatsop County, the only sawmills listed were those belonging to W.W. Parker (on the Lewis and Clark River) and F. Ferrell, in Astoria. There were no grist mills listed.

The book, *Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims, Abstracted, Volumes 1-VIII 1845-1849*, 1987, Genealogical Forum of Oregon, lists owners of the land claim where the grist and saw mills stood. There is a gap in time between the last name listed and the data from Deed Book D. Some entries below are for adjacent claims, but they are included because they give useful information about the claim or owner. The date listed is usually the date the claim was recorded, not the settlement date.

Phillips, Alonzo, Clatsop Co. 320 acres, Adjs. Pacific Ocean. Champion on N; Wahoni Milling Compy. on S. Personal occupancy. 27 Feb. 1846. Volume I, page 122. [a neighbor]

Hall, S.B., Clatsop Co. 640a Rich'd McCary and a lake on E; Ocean on W; Edward Williams on S. Personal occupancy. 11 June 1846. Bk 2 p 48. [neighbor]

Williamson, E., Clatasop [sic] Co. 640a S end of Clatsop plains; Ocean forms W line; S line on Neocoxia to forks, then up Middle Fork to Mill dam; Mill pond on E; Wm. McGunigill on N. Personal occupancy. 12 June 1846. Bk 2 p 50. [owner]

Tuller, Jeremiah G., Clatsop Co, 640a. In Clatsop Plains, Wm. Riley on N, Williams, known as Chano [Ohano?] Milling claim, on S. Pacific Ocean W boundary. Personal occupancy, 28 Dec 1846. Abandoned by personal request of claimant in favor of L.(S?) R. Hudson, 10 Jan 1848. V 4 p 139. [neighbor]

Maclin (McLin?), W., Clatsop Co, 640a. On S end of Clatsop plains, on Pacific Ocean; S bound by Neocoxia River (Middle Fork); SW corner at Mill dam. Claim recorded by E. Williamson, 12 June 1846, which claimant bought and now holds by personal occupancy, 19 Apr 1847. Abandoned by personal request of Claimant 8 Dec 1847. V 4 p 251. [owner] [possibly the name is Marlin, not Maclin]

Marlin, Henry, Clatsop Co, 640a. On Clatsop plains; adjoins clam of W. Beckman and ocean; on "middle fork of Necoxia River to Mill dam". Holds by occupancy, 8 Dec 1847. V 7 p 20. [owner]

Hudson Shadrach R., Clatsop Co, 640a. In Clatsop plains; ocean on W; _____ Williams (known as the Chano [Ohano?] Milling Company claim) on S; _____ Riley on N. Occupancy, 10 Jan 1848. V 7 p 96. [neighbor]

Ridenour, Michael, Clatsop Co, 640a. In Clatsop plains; Henry Marlin is neighbor; claim recorded by Wm. Beekman 8 Dec 1847 and transfered by him to claimant. Occupancy 20 Mar 1848. V 7 p 183. [neighbor]

Jewett, John, Clatsop Co, 640a. In S end of Clatsop plain; at mouth and Forks of Necoia [sic] River; Ocean on W; Henry Marlin on N and ---- Davis on S. Occupancy 10 Apr 1848. V 7 p 211. [neighbor]

From this it appears that Edward Williams owned the Wahoni (Ohano) mill (sawmill or grist mill?) from sometime before June 1846. He sold it to W. Maclin sometime before April 1847. He abandoned the claim and Henry Marlin took it over sometime about December 1847.

Deed Book D adds more owners of this land:

John Hudson Claims 640 acres of land situate in Clatsop County Oregon Teritory and Bounded as follows, Viz

Commencing

at the South West corner of Shadrick Hudson's Claim and running South along the Sea Beach a Half Mile to a stake thence East two miles thence North one half mile to the South East Corner of Shadrick Hudsons Claim thence W along the South line of said S Hudsons claim Two Miles to the place of Beginning

Recorded 27th November A.D. 1850

[owner?] Attest Robt S. M.Ewan

Description of a Land Claim made by John Williams in Clatsop County as follows: Commencing at T W Trutchs S.W. corner running One mile E to a stake, thence S one mile to a Stake thence West one mile to a Stake at the Neocoxy Creek thence Northwardly meandering with Said Creek to Starting point or place of Beginning

dated Clatsop Nov. 30th 1850

Attest Robt. M.Ewan Recorder

Dec. 2, 1850 [owner?]

Description of a Land Claim made by Joseph W Trutch in Clatsop County as follows

Commencing at a Blazed Tree on Necoxy Creek about one mile from its mouth running E one mile to a Stake, thence S one mile to a stake thence W one mile to a Stake thence N one Meandering with Creek to Starting point or place of Beginning

dated Clatsop Nov. 30th 1850

Attest Robt. M.Ewan Recorder

Dec. 2 1850 [neighbor]

We may have found two more owners of this claim, John Hudson and John Williams. A break in the records is followed by the Louk DLC.

From one of the May 29, 1875 Astoria newspapers:

ASSIGNEE'S SALE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned assignee iin bankrupcy of the estate of J.F. Saunders, Bankrupt, will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder, on

The 8th day of June 1875

at the hour of 2 o'clock P.M., at Saunders' Saw Mills, on the premises all those certain lots or tracts of land situated in Clatsop county, State of Oregon, described as follows: The northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 14. Also Lot 5, in Section 10, all in Township 6, north Range, 10 west.

On said land is located a saw-mill, with a splendid water power, capable of cutting 5,000 feet of lumber per day, is contiguous to good roads and in a large farming settlement.

Terms of sale--Cash, gold coin. Deeds to be made at expense of purchaser.

GEO. T. MYERS, Assignee

Oscar Kilbourn, Auctioneer

Part 3: Related Happenings

War

From Hines' *History of Oregon*, page 556, "In the spring of 1847 Colonel Taylor removed to Clatsop plains, where he had purchased a claim for 640 acres of land. The Indian trouble in 1847-48 caused by the massacre of Dr. Whitman, induced him to return to Oregon City with his family, and he served in the Cayuse war as Quartermaster at Fort Waters, on the site of the Whitman massacre."

A number of other Clatsop County residents also served in the Cayuse war: Franklin Barrows, Hiram Carnahan, John Danford, William Doke, Ninian Eberman, Fred Ketchum, S. B. Hall, Robert W. Morrison, Jerry Tuller, Joel Welch and others. All but two of those named lived on Clatsop Plains. The Indian wars certainly disrupted the lives of the settlers, although the battles were so far away.

Gold

From the memoirs of S.T. McKean, written in 1886:

"About this time [1849] the news of the discovery of gold in California began to spread even to this remote region. Everybody got excited, of course. What was the use of staying here and being poor all their lives when they could go and help themselves to all the gold they wanted and return here and live in comfort all the rest of their days! Or maybe take a trip back to the "States" or indulge in any other luxury they chose....

"The greater number of those who went to California came straggling back during the ensuing summer and fall, some with a little money and some with none. Most of them had struck rich diggings one time or another, but something always occurred to prevent them from getting away with any large amount of gold...Although there was not as much dust brought back as was desirable I think the miners came home with a new supply of energy and enlarged ideas.... Many returned to try their luck again, while those who did not, went to work raising potatoes, apples or making lumber to ship to the country of gold....Lumber commanded a very high price in San Francisco and during the next few years several mills were put up in the neighborhood of Astoria....There was also a mill at Tongue Point built by Marlin..."

Part 4: Date Chart

Below is a chart of those whose names have been mentioned as working on this mill or making a claim on the property, and their presence on various tax lists and census. "X" refers to an assessment in Clatsop County. Claim refers to land on which the Wahoni/Ohano/ Wahanna Mills stood.

Name	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	
Owens T Arr OR 1843 in Dec	Arr CP		X		X		X		farmer
Trask E Arr OR 1842	CP	X	X		X	X	X		farmer
Perry W Arr OR 1842	CP	X	X		X		X		lumber man
Tibbets C 1840 CP		X	X		X		X		died Sept ?
Morrison R	Arr OR in Jan		Arr CP		X		X		farmer sawyer
Adair J					Arr OR		Cust. Coll.		
Williams E		X	X	Deed Recorded	X	X	Delinquent		
McLin W				Bought claim			In WA County		
Marlin H		Arr OR in Oct		X on claim	X	X	X		Merchant Tongue Point
Marlin J			1st shows up in co. in 1853						
Hudson J				Arr OR on claim?	X	X			farmer
Williams J					on claim?				
Pickard (Packard?)					laborer Warner's? Astoria mill				
Reddick T			1st report in county in 1862						

(sorry this is such a mishmash-Nov 1994)

Part 5: Biographical Material

There is considerable information available locally about these families: Owens, Trask, Perry, Morrison and Adair, so I won't include much here. There is little on the Tibbets family because Calvin Tibbets died early, but there is a chapter on him in the book, *Men of Champoeg* by Caroline Dobbs (1932). I have not been able to find much on the following men:

Williams/Williamson

There was a reference to Edward Williams being in Lewis County, on the north side of the Columbia River, recorded 19 Nov 1846 in the Provisional Land Claims book. The claim was abandoned by his request 27 April 1847, Volume 4, pg. 84. The name Edward Williams was on the Clatsop County 1848 tax delinquent list; he owed twenty-five cents. There are 34 Williams or Williamson families in the Oregon Territory in 1850. One may be harboring Edward Williams. I checked a few but did not locate him. Perhaps he adopted a different name, moved out of the territory, or died. Edward and John Williams have common names and I am not sure I found the right one for 1860.

There is, however, in *Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims, Vol. 3*, an Edwin Williams and might that this may be the same person, considering that he is in the same county as the Hudsons:

Donation Claim #385
Williams Edwin, Umpqua County, born 1808, Onondaga Co, N.Y.; Arrived Oregon September 1844; settled claim 1 Dec. 1851 or 1 Sept 1853.

1860 Federal Census for Umpqua County:
272 272 George Williams 21 farmer $480 $400 Pennsylvania
273 273 Edwin Williams 50 farmer $3000 $1875 born New York

McLin/Macklin

1850 Federal Census for Washington County
278 278 William Macklin 39 farmer KY

Rosannah	"	24	KY
Lafayette	"	7	MO
Sarah	"	4	MO
Alvera	"	2	O.T. [Oregon Territory]
John H.	"	6/12 months	O.T.

According to this census, they came from Missouri sometime between 1846 and 1848.

Marlin

Henry Marlin was listed on the Meek Train in 1845.
Henry Marlin married Miss Emily (Olney) Hipes on May 10, 1846 in Oregon. (reference forgotten). Was she the sister of the famous eastern Oregonian, Nathan Olney, Indian fighter, and his brother, Cyrus Olney, Oregon State Territorial judge and who later had a donation land claim in Clatsop County and for whom the settlement of Olney on Highway 202 is named? Nathan Olney came to Oregon in 1845 the same year Emily did. From a book on Clackamas County, Nathan and Cyrus did have a sister, Emily, birthdate not listed. According to a marriage record noted in *Men of Champoeg*, she was Mrs. Emily Hipes and both were from Iowa. (According to Lee Marlin Schneider of 2805 Janan Drive, Bellevue, NE 68005, Emily was a cousin of Cyrus Olney---added in Nov 1994.)

Provisional land claims for Henry Marlin.

1. Twalaty Co. The south side of Tuality River, recorded 16 April 1846.

2. Tualaty Co. On the road to Oregon City from Tuality Plains near Lockpert Lake, recorded 21 Sept. 1846.

3. Clackamas County. An island at the falls of the Willamette River, a grist and saw mill. Recorded 15 October 1846.

4. Clatsop County. Middle fork of Necoxia River to the mill dam, recorded 8 Dec. 1847.

Alfred Cleveland's history of Astoria in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 4 page 133, states that:

"In 1849 Marland's mill just above Tongue Point was started. The mill was later destroyed by fire."

Donation Land Claim No. 3470 Marlin Henry; born 1822, Perry County, Pennsylvania. Arrived Oregon 13 Oct 1845; settled claim 1 August 1849; married Emily J. 10 May 1846, Washington Co, Oregon Territory. Claim was located 1/2 mile east of Custom House in Astoria on the Columbia River. Affidavits: John McClure, Robert Shortess. T8N R9W, sections 2, 10, 11, 589.17 acres. [Tongue Point]

1850 Federal Census Clatsop County Astoria
19 19

Marlin Henry	**26**	**Merchant $25,000 born Pennsylvania**
Mrs.	**22**	**born Ohio**
John	**4**	**born Oregon**
A.	**3**	**born Oregon [listed as male, perhaps an error]**
Aikin Henry S.	**34**	**Lumberman $10,000 born New York**
Brown H.	**24**	**Lumberman born New York**
Brown M.P.	**36**	**Engineer born Alabama**

H. Brown was Hiram Brown who became one of the wealthiest men in the county. According to his biography in the Hines' *History of Oregon*, page 515, "Hiram Brown landed in Astoria, September 1, 1850. Mr. Brown came to Oregon to see the country, but finding occupation in the building of a sawmill on Tongue Point, in which mill he was offered the position of head sawyer, he was induced to remain." The following notice was printed up in the May 1, 1875 newspaper in Astoria.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Notice is hereby given that all persons are forbid tresspassing upon or in any way occupy any portions of the land or beach surrounding TONGUE POINT, or upon any part of the Henry Marlin land claim in Clatsop county, State of Oregon, without permission from the undersigned; and also from setting out fires upon said claim, whereby the standing timber may in any way be injured.

VAN DUSEN & BROWN
Per A. VANDUSEN

Astoria, Sept 10th 1874.

This letter was still being printed in 1878.

On March 13, 1851, Henry Marlin sold an interest in his steam sawmill to Henry Aiken.

There is an 1852 map of Astoria from Smith Point to Tongue Point that clearly shows the location of Marlin's Tongue Point saw mill on the east side of the neck of the Tongue.

He probably stayed on at the sawmill on Tongue Point only until he proved up on it, then sold it and moved on. Local deed records and the judgment rolls listed below would tell; they are at the Court House in Astoria.

Perhaps his mill burned and he felt compelled to move on.

Clatsop County Commissioners Journals report that John Marlin applied for a grocery license on May 3, 1853. He was fined $10 for selling whiskey on Sunday, entry from August 28, 1854, page 26. He also had a bowling alley.

1854 Assessment List for Clatsop County
Henry Marlin had 3 males 10 and under, 3 females 18 and over, 1 female 10 and under and himself
John Marlin had 1 male 10 and under, 1 female over 18 and 3 females 10 and under and himself
Robert had 1 female 18 and over and himself
Jonathan was alone in his household

Henry Marlin's father was buried about 1855 near his mill on Tongue Point. His body was exhumed in 1880 and sent to San Francisco to be reburied, according to the September 15, 1880 Astoria newspaper.

Judgment Rolls in Clatsop County
Marlin & Welch Defendants, versus J.L.S.M. Cooper #37
Marlin & Welch " " Samuel A. Cooper #71
Marlin & Aiken " " Hugh Love #68
Marlin & Aiken " " Oscar I Backus #77
Marlin Henry " " Summers & Smith #78

The Commissioners Journal mentions the suit of JLSM Cooper versus Marlin & Welch in April 1858.
The Coopers were loggers. J.L.S.M or J.L.L.M. or J.S.S.M. Cooper (it has been written all those ways because the L looks like an S.) was written about in the book, *Wild Life in Oregon*. He was part Indian. He was said to have ambushed and murdered someone he said had been following him on the trail from California to Oregon, claiming self-defense.

The Commissioners Journal shows that Henry Marlin was appointed a judge of election in Astoria in April 1856.

Henry Marlin was not on the 1858 census roll in Clatsop County.

The 1859 Assessment Roll showed that Henry Marlin had property described as Land Bounded N by Columbia River E by Cathlamette Bay and Vacant land S by Vacant Land W by R. Shortess. It was in T8N 9RW, 640 acres, valued at $1500, no personal property, total value $1500. He owed $13.50 in taxes of which $1.50 was for School tax, $3.00 for State tax and $9.00 for County tax. There was no poll tax.

1860 Federal Census for Linn County, pg. 18
145 133
Marlin Henry 39 Millwright $3200 real property value, $1560 personal property value, born Pennsylvania
Emily 34 Ohio
John 13 Oregon
Daran[?] 11 Oregon
George 7 Oregon
Alice 6 Oregon
Clarance 2 Oregon

In 1867, Henry Marlin was one of the incorporators of a company which erected the Dalles Woolen Mill, along with R. Donnell and W.P. Abrams, according to Alfred L. Lomax in an article, "The Dalles Woolen Mill, 1866-79" in the Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 32 page 62.

1870 Federal Census for Wasco County - East Dalles

Marlin Henry 48 Millwright $5000 $3000 Penn.
Emily 46 Keeping house Ohio
Alice 16 At Home Oregon Attended School
Clarence 14 At Home Oregon Attended School
Abraham 6 Oregon
Brady 4 Oregon
Jesse 6/12 Oregon born December

1880 Federal Census for Wasco County - Dalles City
338 371
Cooper J.B. 41 Head of family Sheriff born Ireland, parents born Ireland
Laura A. 26 wife keeping house born Oregon, father born Pennsylvania, mother born Ohio
James A. 15 son apprentice printer Oregon Ireland Maine
Gracie 12 daughter At school Oregon Ireland Maine
George W. 4 son Oregon Ireland Maine
Jones C.P. 37 Deputy Sheriff Kentucky Don't know
Marlin John 32 brother-in-law Deputy sheriff Oregon Penn Ohio
Also 4 prisoners
Marlin Durand 32 brother-in-law engineer Oregon Penn Ohio

Wasco County Antelope Valley
Marlin Clarence 22 boarder farm hand born Oregon, parents born Oregon

This is probably Laura Alice Marlin Cooper, daughter of Henry and Emily Olney Marlin. Henry Marlin was born in Pennsylvania and Emily in Ohio according to the 1850, 1860 and 1870 censuses and this matches with the births of Laura and her brothers on the census listed above. The children were probably Sheriff Cooper's by a previous marriage since their mother was born in Maine and Laura was born in Oregon. Also she would have been only 11 when James was born. Clarence in Antelope Valley is evidently the brother of Laura, John and Durand[sp?]. Where were Henry and Emily Marlin then? Perhaps they were missed by the census-taker, or perhaps they were out of the area. They may have been in San Francisco; see entry for 1855 above. Emily was still alive because we have a notice of her death in 1911 (about March 9, when one obituary was in the Oregonian; another was on March 12.)

The Oregonian from May 2, 1925, page 14, had the obituary of William A. Marlin who was born in 1846 and died in 1925. Unknown who he was.

Hudson

In Ruth Rockwood's article, "Diary of Rev. George H. Atkinson, D.D. 1847-1858" in *Oregon Historical Quarterly,* Vol. 40, pg. 174, in 1848 he wrote that he was told that a Mr. Hudson was teaching one of the day schools in Clatsop County.

From *Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims, Vol. III*:
Donation Land Claim Number 1044
Hudson John, Umpqua County; born 1796/7, Hamilton Co. Ohio; Arrived Oregon 30 Oct. 1847; settled claim 30 Aug 1850/10 July 1851. 321.59 acres in T22S, R9W.

Donation Land Claim Number 919
Hudson Shadrack, Umpqua Co.; born 1830 Cass County, Michigan; arrived Oregon last of Oct. 1847; settled claim 1 Oct. 1851. 315.36 acres in T23N R7W, sections 27 and 28.

The Hudsons were on the 1860 Federal Census in Umpqua County in the 5th District at Locust Grove.

48 48 John Hudson 63 farmer $6000 $1100 born Ohio
Joseph " 26 born Ohio
49 49 Shadrack Hudson 28 farmer born Ohio
Clark " 27 born Ohio

Shadrack Hudson was in New Castle Precinct, Curry County, page 427 in 1880.

This biography of Shadrack Hudson is from *A Century of Coos and Curry*, by Emil R. Peterson and Alfred Powers, 1952, pg. 542:

"Hudson, Shadrach, b. Michigan 1830. Served in Rouge River Indian War 1855-1856. Married Ann Williams 1868. One child, Mary C. To Curry 1877; followed mining until he had misfortune to lose arm and then retired from active work."

This biography of Shadrach Hudson comes from, *Umpqua Valley, Oregon* by Harold A. Minter, 1967, pg. 188:

"Shadrach Hudson arrived in Oregon from Cass County, Michigan, over the southern route in 1847, with his father, John Hudson, and two brothers, Clark and Joseph. They first settled in the Willamette Valley near Eugene. In 1849 they went to the California gold fields, but returned to Oregon the following year. John located at what is now Weatherly Creek on Long Prairie and built a sawmill. Clark and Joseph went to Bunton's Gap, now Wilbur, and ran sheep but did not locate claims. Shadrach located a claim of 320 acres on the Umpqua River, one mile below and east of Crescent Ferry. Shadrach operated his claim in a sort of haphazard manner as he ran a pack train between Scottsburg and Jacksonville at the same time. In May of 1858, he sold his land to Isaac Spoors for $800....The site of his claim is currently owned by Eugene Fisher, great-grandson of Mrs. Maupin."

Also, in December 1851, voting districts were established in Umpqua County and John Hudson and Job Hatfield, also formerly from Clatsop County (a bar pilot on the Columbia), were on an election board for Scottsburg. "On November 8, 1855, Company 1, 2nd Regiment of Oregon Volunteer Riflemen, was mustered in at Roseburg....The company never experienced actual combat; it was disbanded in January of 1856, and permanently discharged on May 8, 1856." Clark and Shadrach Hudson were on the list of members.

John Hudson had a daughter, Elizabeth, who was the wife of Calvin B. West. This couple and their five children lived in Defiance, Ohio, but planned to move to Oregon, where her father had taken up a claim east of Scottsburg in 1850. West arrived by himself in 1853. He stopped overnight with his nephew, Shadrach Hudson at Kellogg, then moved on, organizing camp meetings. He was licensed to preach by a Baptist congregation, organized by Ezra Fisher in the home of William F. Perry at Deer Creek. He went back to get his family and on their return, he died of cholera. Harold Minter notes that their descendants are "lawyers, judges, teachers, research scientists, writers and builders."

Pickard/Packard

Mr. Pickard was 21, a laborer, born in Indiana, living with J. Renchford [?] who was 30, a laborer, also born in Indiana, according to the 1850 census. Unknown if this is the same as in Deed Book D. He may have been a laborer at the Warner's mill near Upper Astoria as he was listed near Warner and his household. There was no Packard on the 1860 Clatsop County Census. J.W. Packard was a witness to Mrs. Alexander Lattie's will in May 1868, and he was on the 1869 military list. On the 1870 census on Clatsop Plains, is this family.

Packard J.A. 49 born Vermont carpenter
L.W. 45 Vermont keeps house
Cora A. 11 Washington Territory

Paris I.	6	Washington Territory
Lulu L.	2	Oregon

J.A. Packard was also on the industrial schedule of the 1870 census, a lumber manufacturer, using water power and a sash saw.

Reddick

According to an article on the Gearhart family in *Cumtux* Vol. 3, No. 1, Thomas W. Reddick was said to have built the Ohanna grist mill, one of the first in the state. He was found in Clatsop County records: in July 1862 he was appointed supervisor for Road District 4 (Clatsop Plains area). He was on the 1864 and 1865 military lists. The middle initial is different from the one in the Umpqua Valley. The marriage records for Clatsop County show that a marriage license was taken out in Clatsop County for Martha Ann Reddick and Etna Byington Moffit on March 30, 1866. Perhaps she is related to Thomas.

Donation Land Claim, Roseburg Office:

#30 Redick, Thomas Harvey, Jackson Co; born 1830, Fayette Co, Pennsylvania; arrived Oregon 21 July 1853; SC 17/20 Oct 1854, Pd for 10 June 1857, Rec #35.

Louk

Jefferson Louk was in Marion County, Oregon, in 1850, No. 411.

Donation Land Claim No. 3157 Louk, Jefferson J.; born 1829 Pennsylvania; arrived Oregon 15 September 1847; settled claim 9 August 1854; married Catherine 18 February 1849 Oregon Territory. Affidavits from Phillip Gearheart, John Thomas, and John Hobson. T6N R10W, Sections 9, 10, 15, 571.16 acres.

The 1858 Oregon State Census lists J. J. Louk as having in his household, 1 male 21 and over, 4 males under 10, 1 female 18 and over, 1 female under 10

1860 Federal Census for Clatsop County

145 118

Louk	J.J.	30 farmer $800 $500 Pennsylvania
	Catharin	31 KY
	N.J.	12 Oregon
	Mary E.	9 Oregon
	Theo J.	5 Oregon
	Layfaett	3 Oregon
	John P.	2 Oregon
Jewett	Henry W.	24 Iowa
	Nancy A.	18 Arkansas
	Sarah C.	2
Starr	Chs	34

Jefferson J. Louk was on the military lists for Clatsop County in 1863 (on Clatsop Plains) and 1864, but not after. He sold his donation land claim of 571.16 acres to Philip Gearhart on July 15, 1863 for $1000. The Charles Starr who is shown on the census above was probably one of the members of the Starr-Belnap wagon train who came across the plains in 1847 with the Gearharts.

There was also an S.W. Louk, who had a land claim by Perry's on the coast in December 1850. No further mention of him was found.

The name Louk was not listed in the Oregon State census index books for 1870 or 1880. Perhaps the name was mangled beyond recognition. Hyland was listed as Wyland and Leinenweber was listed as Seinmweber on Clatsop County's 1870 census, so it is possible. It is odd that he should have disappeared so completely.

Morrisons

Regarding the Morrisons: R.W. Morrison appears to have been on the 1850 census twice. First, he was listed with his family, as a farmer. Second, he was listed as a sawyer without his family. On both, he was described as 39 years old and born in Kentucky. The second listing includes in the same household, M and N. Irvin, sawyers 32 and 19 years old from Kentucky and Missouri. These are evidently younger brothers of R.W. Morrison's wife, Nancy Irvin Morrison. So, in 1850, R.W. Morrison was spending part of his time farming and part working as a sawyer. The second listing has him by the Perry family. William F. Perrin (Perry) was described as a lumberman. Very likely the two were operating the sawmill at Seaside/Gearhart in 1850. The Commissioners Journal entry of April 1857 mentions Morrison's mill being in Road District No. 4 (Clatsop Plains). And also in April 1858.

Perry

Bethenia Owens-Adair wrote about the Perrys:

"Mr. and Mrs. Perry lived and prospered in Clatsop county, but he was of a migratory nature, and not contented to stay long in one place. In 1851 he moved, with his family, to Douglas county, locating in Roseburg, and buying a large tract of land on Deer creek. Roseburg now stands on part of this land. In 1852 Perry built at Roseburg the first grist mill of Douglas county. In 1859 he again moved, this time to Coos county, and settled on the Coquille river about two miles below Myrtle Point...[Their children were all residents of Coos County at the turn of the century.]

This biography of William T. Perry came from *A Century of Coos and Curry*, by Emil R. Peterson and Alfred Powers:

"Perry, Wm. T., b. Connecticut 1809. Worked on railroad; carpenter; school teacher. Married Ann Abell 1839. Children: Mary, Vale N., Emily Dora C., Louisa K.; the three older girls married three sons of Henry Schroeder. To Oregon City 1842; built first flour mill in Oregon. Built Roseburg flour mills 1851. To Coos, 1858; settled at present site of Norway. Planted first orchard in Coos, still bearing, owned by J.H. McCloskey. Died 1882; Mrs. Perry 1879.

This same book gives other references to William T. Perry. He was the County Superintendent of the Forks of Coos River School District from 1863 to 1865. He was County Assessor from 1868 to 1869.

Owens

Sarah Damron Owens, quoted in the book, *Bethenia Owens-Adair: Some of My Life Experiences* said that after the spring of '48 when Trask, Perry, Tibbets and Owens came back to Clatsop County after their trip to San Francisco on the two-master schooner that they built, that:

"From this time on, we found our herds so much increased that we began to look for a better range. Mr. Perry had moved to Southern Oregon, and settled in Roseburg, Douglas county, and was urging us to come out there,

where there was plenty of water, grass and game. So, in the summer of '53, my husband built a large flat-boat, and in the fall we rented our Clatsop farm, transported all our cattle, horses and sheep in the flat-boat (requiring several loads and trips to do so), to St. Helens, from where they were to make the remainder of the journey overland....in less than a month, we reached Deer creek and were given a hearty welcome by our old friends, the Perrys, who were overjoyed at seeing us again. They had a home provided, and we moved our household goods in at once, and were soon ready for the winter...Mr. Owens at once took a land-claim just across the South Umpqua river from Roseburg, and established a ferry." [They moved to California in 1867 for their health, but Thomas Owens and one son died soon after.]

The *Umpqua Valley* book notes that Thomas Owens was a member of the first grand jury in Umpqua County. T.G. Owen was sheriff of Coos County from 1873 to July 1874. Perhaps both refer to Thomas Owens, the father of Bethenia Owens-Adair.

Part 6: From Clatsop County to the Umpqua Valley.

Those early Clatsop County residents who moved to the Umpqua Valley included Thomas Owens, William T. Perry, Ezra Fisher, John Hudson and his sons, Shadrack, Clark and Joseph, John Danford, Thomas Reddick, William Golden, and possibly Edwin Williams. John Neal Gearhart, a nephew of Sarah Byrd who was also an owner of the mill property, moved there later (1907). It seems very curious that so many people involved with the mill property in Seaside, moved down to the same area in Southern Oregon.

Jesse Applegate, most famous resident of the Umpqua Valley, perhaps, was also in Clatsop County in the 1840's surveying property. He was the captain of the wagon train that Bethenia Owens-Adair and the Owens family were in coming across the plains. Jesse Applegate and his brother were the ones who tried to chase John Shively off his claim (located about 13th to 31st streets in Astoria).

Rev. Ezra Fisher was a minister and teacher in the Umpqua Valley, for a time, who organized the first Baptist Church in Douglas County in 1853. He was an early resident of Astoria, here in 1843 or 1846, depending upon the source referred to. He built a rude hut on 15th Street above Fort George; this house was later used by John Shively for the first U.S. post office west of the Rockies. The next year Fisher moved to Clatsop Plains. On March 19, 1848, he organized the Baptist Church at Skipanon with a membership of 7 persons. Emma Gene Miller said he came to Astoria in the fall of 1846 and moved to Clatsop Plains in the spring of 1847. On 11 April 1848, he was executor of S.B. Hall's estate. Hall had also been a resident of Clatsop Plains and died when when he went to the gold fields of California. Fisher had a Provisional land claim on the Lewis and Clark River in October 1848. He left to go to Oregon City about 1849. Then he went to the gold fields in California.

J.E. Danford along and W.F. Perry were selected county commissioners for Douglas county in April 1852. This is probably the same Danford who was a private in the 1st regiment along with J.H. McMillan in 1847 and 1848 in Oregon Territory. And the same one who had a claim on the Youngs River recorded in April 1850 and intended to be used for logging. J.H. McMillan also had a claim by this same river. (The history of the claims along the head of tidewater and by the falls on Youngs River is just as complicated as that on the Wahanna River near Seaside.)

William Golden had a land claim near Tansy Point in Clatsop County, personal occupancy Feb 1846 and re-recorded the same claim listing occupancy on March 1848. He is listed among the members of Scott's party in June 1850 who took part in settling the Umpqua valley. He was a private of Company 1, 2nd Regiment of Oregon Volunteer Riflemen from the Umpqua Valley, along with Clark and Shadrach Hudson.

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Part 7: Future Research

Further research may settle the question about the builders of the mills at Seaside. These might include:

Assessment rolls at the Oregon Historical Society and Oregon State Archives
The Oregon Territorial Documents
The Accelerated Index book for Oregon Territory to 1849
The Genevieve Butterfield Young papers at the Seaside Museum
Obituaries available from OHS
Histories of Wasco and Umpqua Counties
The Morrison scrapbook at the Clatsop County Historical Society
Martha Morrison Minto's recollections
The *Oregon Spectator*
The *Oregonian*
Thomas R. Cox's book, *Mills and Markets: A History of the Pacific Coast Lumber Industry to 1900* Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 1974, and more.
Judgment Rolls from Clatsop County
The J.J. Louk Donation Land Claim papers

Part 8: Conclusions

When and where was the first Seaside mill? And who built it?

These are questions not easily answered, even after reading the material above. Although in a number of cases, the informants had personal knowledge of the building of the mills, there were still disagreements regarding the dates the mills were built, which mill was built first, and who built the mills.

The source of the problem:

The confusion arises because the information in the printed histories came from memories that were selective, consciously or unconsciously. The conscious process can be seen in the transcription that Emma Gene Miller took from Bethenia Owens-Adair's book. In the list of names that Mrs. Miller copied, she left out the name of Marlin. Perhaps, she omitted it because she had not come across any other reference to him, and she thought that the reader would not recognize the name as they would that of the Owens, Perrys or the Trasks. As a result, she omitted the name of one of the most important persons in the building of the mills.

Unconscious blending of two sentences can easily result from reading a statement like that of Fred Lockley, "In 1846 he [R.W. Morrison] took up this claim of 640 acres. He built a sawmill here on the plains."

Looking back at the quotes from the sources listed at the beginning of this paper, it is evident that the stories were not verified by looking at the county or state records or even compared to the claims others had made earlier.

The report that seems to coincide best with the date chart is that of Sarah Gearhart Byrd, as reported by Inez Stafford Hanson in her book, *Life on Clatsop*. It appears that neither Packard, Reddick nor Morrison was responsible for building the first mill in Clatsop County. The Mr. Packard referred to was shown to be a late-comer according to the military lists, etc. And if Thomas Reddick is the same one as the one who proved up on a donation land claim in the Umpqua Valley, he left there to come to Clatsop County about the same time as the others were leaving here. He was also a late-comer.

Already in 1843, when the only families that lived on Clatsop Plains were the Smiths, Tibbet, Perrys and the Trasks, it was reported that the residents were hoping to set up a patent mill. Mills, whether they were set up to grind grain or saw logs, were the first industries desired by settlers. They were the means of providing food and shelter, the primary necessities. It appears that this small band of farmers was not successful in building the grist mill that year or the next. At first, flour was obtained from the generous Dr. McLoughlin. It appears that labor was exchanged for goods, as Alexander Latty's journal shows that Eldridge Trask spent much time trying to plow up the garden at Fort George with his broken-down hand-made plow. By 1850, Thomas Owens was producing 150 bushels of wheat a year, John Jewett, 100 bushels, and Trask, 100. R.W. Morrison was the only one growing rye and he produced 16 bushels. They were more successful in growing corn which needed to be made into meal too. John Jewett grew 600 bushels of it; Morrison, 400 bushels and Owens, 300 bushels. Five years before, their farming operations produced more modest results, but it was just as important to find some means to grind it themselves so that they would not have to make the long voyage by boat upriver to take it to a mill.

These early settlers chose the plains to build their farms because they wanted fairly level land to plow and plant grain and to pasture their animals. But they needed a different kind of site for a grist mill and later a saw mill. They needed a waterway with a sufficient flow of water, a lake for water storage and an area with enough difference in elevation to increase pressure on the flow of water when it was needed. By building a dam, they could regulate the flow of water. The nearest location that fit these requirements was on the Wahanna River

which connected to a lake and falls. And it was here, early in 1846, that a dam was built. (The Provisional Land Claims book refers to this already as the Ohano or Wahani Mills near the end of February in 1846 when Williams (or Williamson) recorded his claim, and there was already a mill dam and a mill pond there.) In addition to having the necessary physical layout, they had a man who was was reputed to have helped to build the first grist mill in the state, William T. Perry. Marlin seems to have arrived in the area after the basic work was done.

At this time there were a number of men, scouting out good locations for mills all over the Oregon Country, hop-scotching from one claim to the next. Some had crossed the midwestern plains, hauling the heavy equipment for their mills all the way as Conrad Boelling and Henry H. Hunt had. Those who found the best locations at an early date were assured of success as long as the price of lumber was good. In 1846, a number of men were making their land claims on strategic pieces of property in Clatsop County, at Youngs River Falls, on the John Day, the Lewis and Clark, and the Wahanna.

E. Williams, who, as far as I have been able to find was the first recorded owner (or squatter) on this property. He sold his squatter's rights to this claim to W. McLin or Maclin (possibly Marlin? The names are very similar). This claim was recorded, the 19th of April 1847, then abandoned at his request on December 8, 1847.

The next holder of the claim was the enterprising Henry Marlin who became known later as the builder of the mill, although some remembered him as John, not Henry. (It may be that a relative, John Marlin, was also involved in building it, thus the confusion of the names.) It is possible that Henry Marlin made improvements to the mill that justified his reputation as its builder. The work on this mill, however, was probably a community effort as all in the area would benefit.

At which point a sawmill was built is still unclear.

On November 29, 1847, about two hundred and fifty miles away, the murder of Dr. Marcus Whitman and thirteen others at the mission at Wailatpu by Indians suddenly changed the lives of these roving entrepreneurs and farmers of Clatsop County. Outraged men and boys rushed to join up in military units to go and punish those thought responsible. When the male residents of the plains area enlisted for war on the Indians, many of the women and children fled to the more populated areas for safety. In some cases, the claims were abandoned then. By July of 1848, most of the men had been mustered out and were free to return to their homes. Not many returned for long, however, because word had spread quickly about the discovery of gold at the Coloma sawmill, east of Sacramento, California, on January 24, 1848. After that, sporatic reports of gold finds in the West often depopulated the area. Some men were lucky and careful, benefitting from their trips to the gold-fields, but most were not. Some disappeared without a sign, never to return. Eventually, a few returned to their land claims. Others found in their journeys around the west that there were other areas more congenial, settled for a while, and then later moved on.

It was in the years 1848 to 1852 that there was a sizable exodus from the Clatsop Plains area to the Umpqua Valley. Several finally proved up on their donation land claims there. Among these people were the Hudsons, John, and his son, Shadrack. John Hudson may have been the next squatter of the claim where the Wahanna mill was located in Seaside, his deed having been recorded at the end of November 1850. John and his boys soon moved to Umpqua Valley, however. By 1850, R. W. Morrison was operating it. Then, in 1854, the donation land claim had a new owner, Jefferson J. Louk, who was said to have traded a cow for squatter's rights, and then proved up on the claim. It is his name that is on current maps of the county. He, too, did not stay long after proving up. In 1863, Philip Gearhart was the new owner. He then deeded it to his daughter, Sarah Byrd, whose second husband, Frank Byrd, operated a sawmill at Thompson Falls, the same falls that feeds the Wahanna (Neawanna).

And as for Henry Marlin, he proved up on his own donation land claim at Tongue Point, in Clatsop County. He built a saw mill there in 1849 that was valued at $25,000 the next year. It appears that he finally succeeded beyond the dreams of most of the roving band of mill builders. It did not last, however, as one report indicates that his mill burned a few years later. Then in 1856, the price of lumber plumeted, and all the mills except the

Ferrell Mill in Astoria went broke. The next census found Henry Marlin in Linn County occupied as a wheelwright and much reduced in wealth (this was a general circumstance, the boom having bust). Another ten years later, in 1870, he was in the East Dalles still working as a wheelwright.